



Basic Training Information

C/1-19th Field Artillery



06 OCT 2016 – 09 DEC 2016

Class 02-17

FROM THE COMMANDER:

I am Captain (CPT) Bryan D. Henson, your Soldier's Battery Commander for Basic Combat Training (BCT) Class #02-17 in the 434th Field Artillery Brigade, Fort Sill, Oklahoma. As you already know, your Soldier has safely arrived, in-processed, and has already begun their 9 week journey towards becoming a Soldier in the United States Army.

As a member of Charlie Battery, your Soldier is in the good hands with my Cadre. These hard working Noncommissioned and Commissioned Officers make up the most dedicated and professional team in the United States Army. The Drill Sergeants are selected from among the best. We serve as coaches, teachers, mentors, and leaders whose mission is more than just making sure your Soldier graduates from BCT. Our goal is to provide our Army with well trained, motivated, team oriented, and disciplined Soldiers. Your Soldier will exude the Warrior Ethos, the Army Values and demonstrate a winning attitude. Upon graduation they will be mentally, physically and emotionally prepared for the rigors of combat in order to fight and win on the modern battlefield.

We accomplish this mission by providing your Soldier with realistic and relevant training. As you will hear first-hand from your Soldier, the training will consist of some of the most strenuous and demanding activities they have ever been through. BCT is not easy, nor should it be. Every task your Soldier performs during this course will help develop the discipline, self-confidence, and knowledge necessary to be a successful Soldier in today's Army.

We consider our Soldiers to be our Nation's most precious resource and a key asset of the Army's future. Because of this, your Soldier's development only begins with training. What makes the Army a unique organization and culture is that taking care of Soldiers and their families is our foremost priority. Please know that like you, we are genuinely concerned about your Soldier's overall health and well-being and we have a number of resources available to alleviate and mitigate any financial, medical or personal issues.

This is not only your Soldier's first Army experience; it is likely yours as well. Therefore, we would also like to welcome you to the Army family. Like your family's values, our seven Army values of Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, and Personal Courage are rooted deep in tradition and are sewn into the very soul of every American Soldier. Your Soldier is currently learning about these values while living by the Soldier's Creed.

At times, this experience will seem to be very difficult for your Soldier. Soldiers have the opportunity to attend weekly religious services of various denominations and bible study. Soldiers are also permitted to seek counseling from an Army Chaplain who is on call 24 hours a day. We also have a Battalion Chaplain who circulates around for training.

For many of our younger Soldiers, this is their first time away from everything they know, to include home, family, and friends. Naturally, your Soldier misses you very much; I encourage you to write at every opportunity. **Simply put, Soldiers love getting mail.**

Your sentiments of pride and encouragement provide a great deal of strength in the morale and motivation of your Soldier. Rest assured that your Soldier will be given time to write and read their mail. Your Soldier had the opportunity to call home during the first week of Basic Combat Training but phone privileges will be extremely limited for the next few weeks. Later in training your Soldier will have the opportunity to use the phone on weekends, primarily Sunday afternoons. Please understand that phone usage is a privilege the Soldiers must earn week to week through their motivation, performance, and discipline. While packages are allowed, please do not send magazines, medication, electronic devices, weapons, knives, alcohol, food, candy, tobacco products, pornography, or anything that could be considered morally questionable. When in doubt, just send letters.

Send mail to:

Rank, Last Name, First Name

1-19TH FA BN, CHARLIE BTRY, __*__ PLT, CLASS 02-17

5960 S. BOUNDARY ROAD

FORT SILL, OK 73503-6204

****You need to find out your Soldier's PLT # during their phone privileges****

If a Soldier fails to meet any of the graduation requirements, every effort will be made for the Soldier to retake the portion he/she fails. In the event the Soldier cannot pass or retake that portion, he/she will be considered for a transfer (recycle) to another battery to complete the remaining training requirements. If a Soldier fails the final BPFT (Basic Physical Fitness Test), they will be given opportunities to pass during the make-up BPFTs. We will make every effort to provide that Soldier an opportunity to pass and move on to AIT. Passing the BPFT is a graduation requirement and if, despite our best efforts, he/she still cannot pass prior to graduation, the Soldier may be assigned to the Fitness Training Unit (FTU) based up their score. Upon passing the BPFT at FTU, the Soldier will move on to his/her Advanced Individual Training (AIT). We will ensure that your Soldier is afforded the opportunity to call home in order to keep you updated on his/her status.

Should an injury occur, your Soldier will receive appropriate medical attention from Fort Sill's large, professional, medical staff at state of the art medical facilities. Additionally, Drill Sergeants are Combat Lifesaver qualified and carry medical aid kits. Injuries that prevent Soldiers from graduating will be handled on a case-by-case basis. Any Soldier who is injured during training and cannot complete the remaining training requirements will be transferred to either Warrior Therapy and Rehabilitation Program (WTRP) or be put on Medical Hold (MED Hold) to recover. Once the Soldier recovers, he/she will be sent to another training unit to resume the portion of training he/she missed.

Family and friends will have the opportunity to spend time with their Soldier on both Family Day and Graduation (Only if Soldier is qualified to graduate). We understand that by attending the family day and graduation events you are making great sacrifices with your time and money that require adequate planning. I highly encourage you to attend the family day activities on **DECEMBER 8, 2016** and graduation on **DECEMBER 09, 2016**. We will send out a detailed graduation information packet with maps, times, and locations by week five of your Soldiers' training. Lawton-Fort Sill and our surrounding communities offer a vast array of

attractions, activities, and accommodations during your stay. As you may know, Fort Sill is located in southwest Oklahoma and is surrounded by the scenic Wichita Mountains. The Wichita Mountain Wildlife Refuge includes a visitor center and several tourist sites such as the Holy City and historic Medicine Park. Lawton-Fort Sill boasts attractions such as the Great Plains Museum, while offering many restaurants and hotels to choose from. A must see is our National Historic Landmark, Old Fort Sill, which includes the original Cavalry Barracks built by the 10th U.S. Cavalry Buffalo Soldiers in 1869, and Geronimo's one time cell at the Guard House. The Fort Sill Museum also offers many rare artifacts and a Cannon Walk with a collection of over 200 historic Artillery Pieces. You can also find information about the local area at the Lawton-Fort Sill Chamber of Commerce website; www.lawtonfortsillchamber.com .

Family Day

Your Soldiers will participate in our Family Day ceremony held at Charlie Battery on **DECEMBER 08, 2017 at 10 AM**. This ceremony last a little under an hour and provides you with a small look and introduction to what your Soldier did over the past 9 weeks. Following the ceremony your Soldier will have the opportunity to spend time with you on an off-post pass, until that same evening. If your Soldier is not in a graduating status and is not pending disciplinary action, they will have time to spend with you; however, these Soldiers must remain in the battery area (BLDG 5960).

Graduation Day

Provided your Soldier meets all basic training requirements, they will graduate at **DECEMBER 09, 2017 at 1 pm**, at Cache Creek Chapel on Fort Sill.

The address is:
Cache Creek Chapel
6043 Rothwell St.
Fort Sill, OK 73503

We understand that you will want to make travel plans early in order to get the best travel deals. However, please talk to your Soldier at every opportunity regarding their graduation status. We recommend that you **DO NOT make any plans or travel arrangements** which cannot be changed or canceled until you have received notice from your Soldier they will graduate. Your Soldier *should* know their graduation status by the end of the 7th week of training. In a few weeks, we will post specific graduation information on our website. As per normal scheduling, your Soldier will ship to AIT beginning the morning after graduation via government-provided transportation. We will post more information about this process on our website in a few weeks. No Soldier is authorized to proceed to AIT by any method other than what is coordinated by the government. 13, 14, and 94 - series MOS Soldiers who are attending AIT here at Fort Sill will ship to their gaining unit the afternoon of graduation. They will be given further instructions after they arrive at their AIT unit here on FT. Sill and will be given a pass after in-processing there.

The Battery has a Facebook page where photos of your Soldiers in training will be uploaded as often as possible and you will have the opportunity to communicate with the Battery leadership as well as other family members. Questions may be directed through the message service on the page and we will answer them as our work allows. The Battery also has a webpage with the Welcome and Graduation letters posted to it. There you can find some general information about the Battery and Battalion.

HOW DO I GET ON FORT SILL?

Due to security measures, access to Fort Sill is limited to Department of Defense card holders (The V.A.-issued identification card no longer meets the criteria for installation access) and those individuals who have received a post pass from the Fort Sill Visitor Control Center. At the web address (link) below, you will find detailed instructions on how to receive a post pass. It is imperative that you follow these instructions or go to the Visitor Control Center yourself prior to attain a post pass. Failing to do so will cause entry to Fort Sill to be delayed and/or denied. Additionally, please circulate this information to other family and friends that could potentially be attending Family Day and Graduation activities. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us and for pass information, the visitor's center contact information can be found on our web-site.

POINTS OF CONTACT

If we can be of assistance to you in any matter relating to your Soldier, please feel free to contact any of the following staff by phone or email:

Battery Commander: CPT Henson, Bryan D. 580-442-1426

Email: bryan.d.henson4.mil@mail.mil

Battery 1SG: 1SG Gautier, James 580-442-1424

Email: james.t.gautier.mil@mail.mil

Facebook page:

Google: C 1-19 FA

Or enter: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Lawton-OK/C1-19-FA/140373475974940>

Battery Website:

<http://sill-www.army.mil/434/1-19/charlie/>